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WKU Student Affairs

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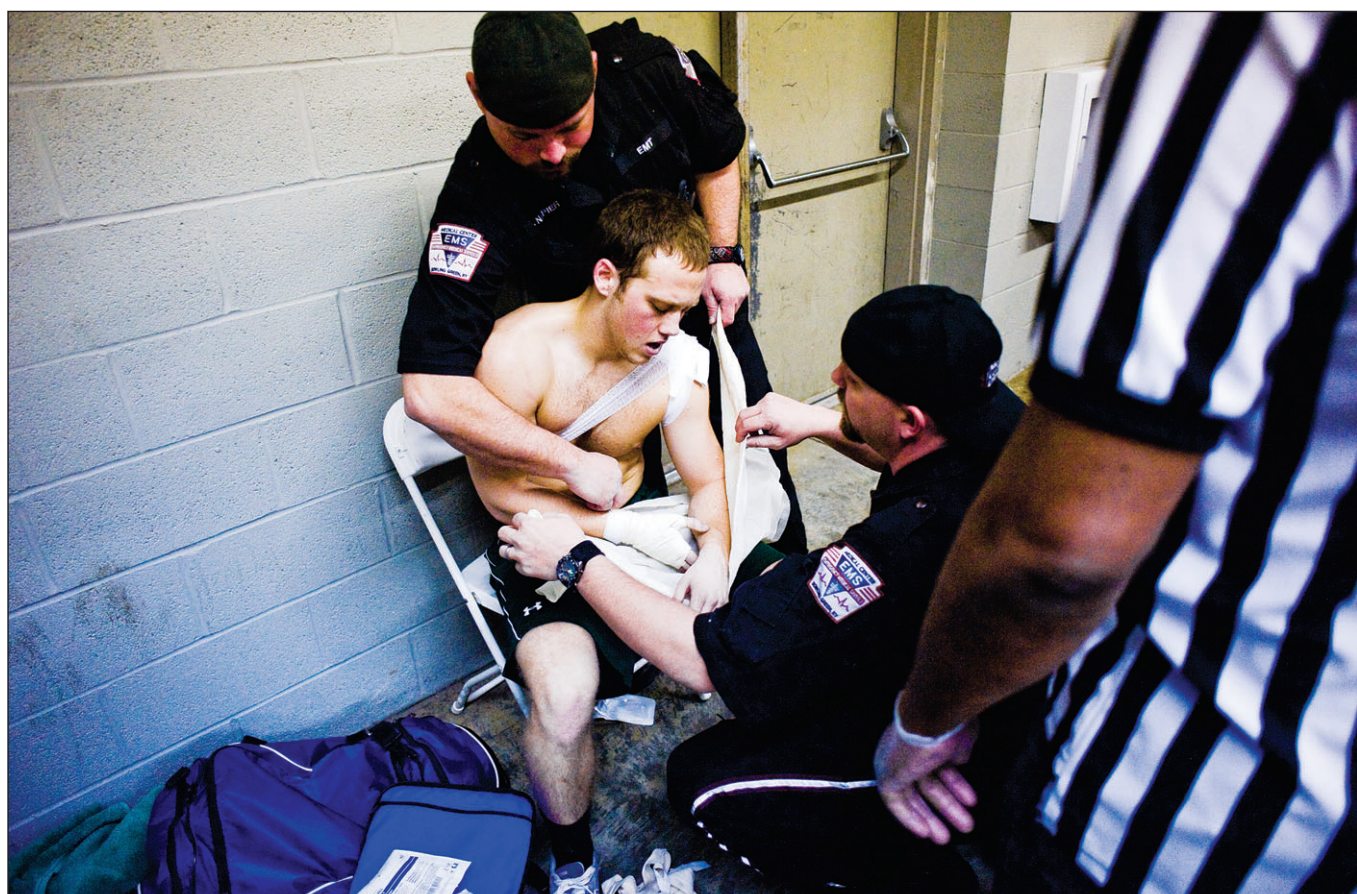
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SUN BELT CHAMPIONS | SPORTS



HAIR SHOW | DIVERSIONS



Jordan Minton, a Louisville junior in Phi Gamma Delta dislocates his shoulder Thursday night in his fight against Kappa Alpha senior, Zach Redman, at Jaycee Pavilion in Bowling Green, Ky. Redman won the fight in the first round.

AUSTIN KOESTER/HERALD

FIGHT FOR A CAUSE

Battle of the Greeks raises
money for cancer research

By HANNA DEMIRJIAN
diversions@chherald.com

Beats, beer and boxing. This is what Sigma Chi fraternity's Battle of the Greeks offers on the surface.

But as the boxers circled and attacked while fighting each other, they were fighting for a cause — cancer research.

Each dollar that Sigma Chi raised at the event will go toward finding a cure.

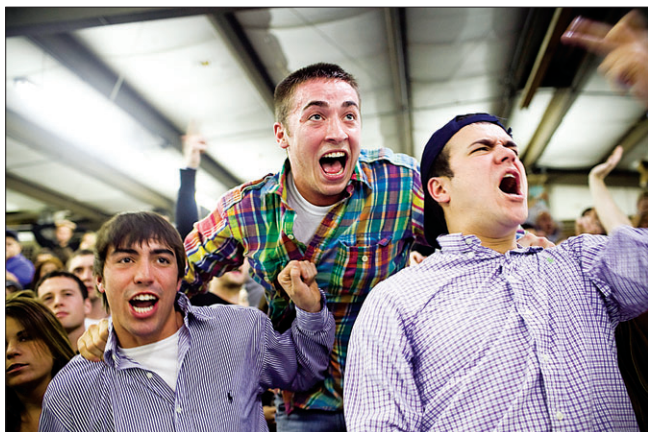
Ticket sale proceeds, about \$15,000, were donated to The Huntsman Foundation in Salt Lake City.

"(Huntsman Foundation) has state-of-the-art technology for cancer research and about 1,000 patients," said London junior Daniel Smith, treasurer of Sigma Chi.

Fight Night has become a major affair on Western's campus.

The singing, dancing crowd battled the heat of the pavilion as they yelled at the battle going on in the ring.

SEE **BATTLE**, PAGE 3A



BETHANY MOLLENKOF/HERALD

Members of Pi Kappa Alpha from left Lexington senior David Dauer, Lexington junior Chad Kruger and Bowling Green junior Steven Williams cheer on their fraternity brothers at the annual Sigma Chi Battle of the Greeks boxing event.



In-depth video and
audio coverage of
Battle of the Greeks
WKUHERALD.COM

More photos, page 3B

Students, employees push equal benefits

By EMILY WADLEY
news@chherald.com

Some students and faculty members are upset about the Benefits Committee's recent vote to deny domestic partner, or other qualified dependent (OQD), benefits to Western employees.

Domestic partner benefits are benefits an employer chooses to offer to an employee's unmarried partner, whether of the same or opposite sex, according to the data from Employee Benefit Research Institute.

Bowling Green senior Skylar Baker-Jordan spoke at last week's Student Government Association meeting and created a Facebook group supporting domestic partner benefits that has more than 750 members.

Louisville junior Kat Michael, president of Student Identity Outreach, said there's a petition concerning the decision circulating among SIO members and campus.

Baker-Jordan said he's ashamed of the message the committee "is sending to students: that it's OK to discriminate against gay and lesbian people."

SEE **BENEFITS**, PAGE 5A

Students voice opinions on housing system

By TESSA DUVAL
news@chherald.com

There are just a little more than two weeks left for students to pick out their own dorm room for next year.

Students have until March 19 to choose their housing for the fall by using Housing and Residence Life's new room assignment system.

HRL Director Brian Kuster said that so far, things have gone relatively smoothly.

The new system allows students to choose their exact room and then assign themselves to it. Students also have the ability to select their roommate by exchanging individualized passwords and entering them into the system.



KUSTER

SEE **HOUSING**, PAGE 5A

FROM THE EDITOR

The Herald holds itself to the highest ethical standards.

A story in Friday's Herald fell short of those standards.

The article about Spencer's Coffeehouse, "Coffeehouse oasis for students" included numerous factual errors.

We reported that Brian Carter was sipping on a "Dark Horse."

Spencer's owner Justin Shepherd said Carter couldn't have been drinking a "Dark Horse," because it hasn't been available on the menu for months.

Bowling Green resident Chelsea Daly never worked at Spencer's, Shepherd said.

When the Herald tried to reach Leah Sommers at the Bowling Green Police Department, the

police department said no employee by that name worked there.

The reporter admitted that she had not been able to reach sources and created information to meet her deadline.

The Herald constantly encourages reporters and editors to be in regular communication, because stories and sources occasionally fall through.

The reporter has been suspended for the rest of the spring semester.

The Herald regrets the errors.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters' or editors' attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-5044 to report a correction, or e-mail us at editor@chherald.com.

Chief: Campus police needs more officers

By SPENCER JENKINS
news@chherald.com

While more students are heading to class on and around the Hill, the number of Western police officers protecting campus hasn't changed.

Western's enrollment has increased by about 5,000 students in the past ten years, said Deborah Wilkins, chief of staff and general counsel.

Wilkins said in an e-mail that most of the enrollment growth has occurred online and at

Western's regional campuses.

"The change in the 'on campus' population has not been nearly as great," she said.

Police Chief Robert Deane said the department does need more officers.

"We hope to grow as the university grows," he said.

Western's police department is allowed 30 officers but has chosen to fill only 28 positions, Wilkins said.

Right now, there are 27 officers on the police

force with one vacant spot, Deane said.

He said he would like to assign full-time officers to nearby campus spots, including South Campus.

"We'd like to have more if we could, but we understand the financial situation," he said. "We just have to be patient."

Though the Western police budget has increased by 28 percent since 2004-2005, Western currently can't afford to provide for more officers, Wilkins said.

SEE **POLICE**, PAGE 3A

28

Number of
officers in
the Western
police de-
partment

20,712

Number of
students
currently
enrolled at
Western.

740

Approximate
number of
students per
officer.

Source: Deborah
Wilkins, chief of staff
and general counsel

CRIME REPORTS

Reports
■ Megan Dunn, Bemis Lawrence Hall, reported on Feb. 27 that the back corner glass was broken on her Buick Regal. The value of the damage was \$100.
■ Michael Gordon Bjoralt and Craig Stone McCreary, both of Pearce-Ford Tower, reported on Feb. 26 that two laptops were stolen from their dorm room. The value of the theft was \$2,238.77.

Arrests
■ Scott Buchanan was arrested on Feb. 27 and charged with being under the influence of alcohol and a danger to himself and others after he was observed waving down passers-by on 14th and Adams streets. He was released after five hours.
■ Richard Montgomery was arrested on Feb. 27 and charged with being under the influence of alcohol and a danger to himself and others after he was observed urinating in a parking lot on Russellville Road. He was released after five hours.



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a thousand words

By DAVE KASNIC

Jim and Dorothy, who requested that their last name not be released, have lived in Bowling Green in the same house on Normalview Drive for 30 years.

Over the years they have watched the street, located across the train tracks near The Registry apartment complex, turn from a nice neighborhood to a rougher area of Bowling Green.

Houses are missing doors. Various belongings are scattered throughout front yards. Windows have duct tape covering cracks and places where the glass has entirely shattered out of the frame.

“It used to be a relatively normal area to live in,” Jim said. “Now, during the summer instead of having a relaxing evening sitting on your porch, you can sit outside for entertainment. It’s gotten that bizarre.”

Jim and Dorothy are currently taking care of their 12-year-old granddaughter, Chelsie, whose father is in the hospital for various health issues. The couple is also taking care of their 15-year-old grandson.

“It’s nice to have youth in the house after all of our kids grew up and had their own homes and families,” Dorothy said.

Although their neighborhood isn’t the same as when they moved in, they don’t plan to leave the area anytime soon.

“It may not be as nice as it used to be, but it’s home,” Jim said.

“A Thousand Words” is a weekly photo essay that tells untold stories on the edges of campus.

su|do|ku

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Fill in the grid so that every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9 with no repeats. Solutions, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com.

CORRECTION

Due to a Herald error, the date of the Gamma Sigma Sigma Hair Show was incorrectly identified in a page 5B article in the Feb. 23 issue. The Hair Show was Feb. 24. The Herald regrets the error.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters’ or editors’ attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-5044 to report a correction, or e-mail us at editor@chherald.com.

HPV Fact #16:

It is estimated that **each minute** in the US, there is a new case of **genital warts**.

HPV Fact #8:

Guys **can’t get screened** for **HPV**. So there’s no way **to know** if a guy has the **virus** or is passing it on.

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BATTLE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Smith said Fight Night attendance is growing every year. This year, Sigma Chi had to turn people away at the door because there was not enough space.

“This year, we had to shut the doors which has never been a problem before,” Smith said. “Our venue is almost becoming too small for our events.”

Louisville senior Josh Mabry, a member of Sigma Nu, has attended the event four times.

“This is the most packed I’ve ever seen it,” Mabry said.

Attendees turned their eye on a series of matches in which more than one boxer dislocated a shoulder.

In the men’s heavyweight match, Bowling Green sophomore Kris Horn from Sigma Nu dislocated his left shoulder and forfeited the match to Owensboro sophomore Kevin Buntin of Lambda Chi.

“It hurt really bad, and I had to pop it back in place, because the paramedics wouldn’t do it,” said Horn, who is also a Marine.

The highly-anticipated middle-weight class match pitted returning champion Evan Goddard of Pi Kappa Alpha and Derek Mundt of Phi Delta Theta. They were the only competitors in the weight class.

Goddard, a Frankfort senior, has

participated in Fight Night for the past three years, while Mundt, a sophomore from Springboro, Ohio, was taking his first jab at it.

Goddard said skills he learned from his personal trainer helped. His trainer stood on the side of the ring coaching Goddard to victory.

“This was a good way to get our name out and show that we can win, to represent the fraternity in a positive way,” Goddard said.

Though Mundt lost the match, he said his participation was worth his time.

“I wouldn’t take it back at all,” Mundt said. “It was fun, hard, tiring and a little more than I expected. I definitely don’t regret it.”

Some of the fighters admitted being a little nervous stepping into the ring.

Auburn senior Kelli Woodard, who fought for Sigma Kappa sorority, came up short in her match on Friday, but she said she fought hard.

“I was just kind of winging it, trying not to get hurt,” Woodard said.

Buffalo senior Ivy Stanley of Sigma Kappa and Glasgow sophomore Jordan Hatchett of Alpha Omicron Pi swung at each other in the women’s division championship, and Hatchett won.

In the men’s featherweight division, Bowling Green sophomore Kyle Dahl of Phi Gamma Delta won. Louisville sophomore Joe Montano, representing Kappa Alpha, was the champion of the lightweight class.

POLICE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Between 1998 and 2008, Western’s state funding dropped 15 percent, and the university lost another 2.4 percent between 2008 and 2009, she said.

There are many benefits to having more officers, Deane said.

When there are more officers, there’s more police coverage, he said. Officers also wouldn’t have to work double shifts or work at every football game and, in turn, could spend more time with their families.

Western police receive help from the Bowling Green Police Department during special events.

Western police are in a unique situation because they work special events, said Barry Pruitt, public information officer for the Bowling Green Police Department.

Campus police spokesman Joe Harbaugh said the department requested federal stimulus money for six additional officers, but their request was denied.

Funding for police departments is always a hot topic, Wilkins said.

“One side argues that you can never have too many officers,” she said. “Others believe it is better to devote resources to programs that address others’ roles in reducing criminal activity through crime prevention.”

Despite the number of officers,

“

One side argues that you can never have too many officers. Others believe it is better to devote resources to programs that address others’ roles in reducing criminal activity through crime prevention.”

—DEBORAH WILKINS
Chief of staff and general counsel

some students say they still feel safe on campus.

London freshman Kara Marcum said she sees officers on campus all the time.

“I don’t feel threatened by anything,” she said.

Madisonville freshman Anna Terry agreed.

“I guess I feel like it won’t happen to me, which is a horrible attitude,” she said. “I feel like they do a good job — I see them everywhere.”



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NETID OR BUST!

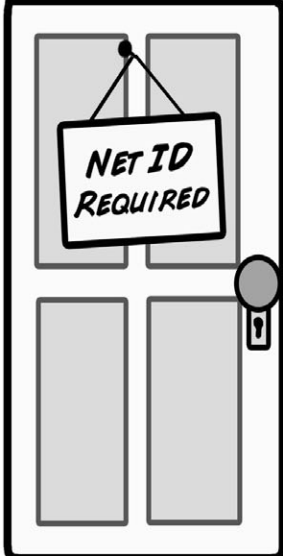
BY: B. NET READY


(MARCH 8, 2010)

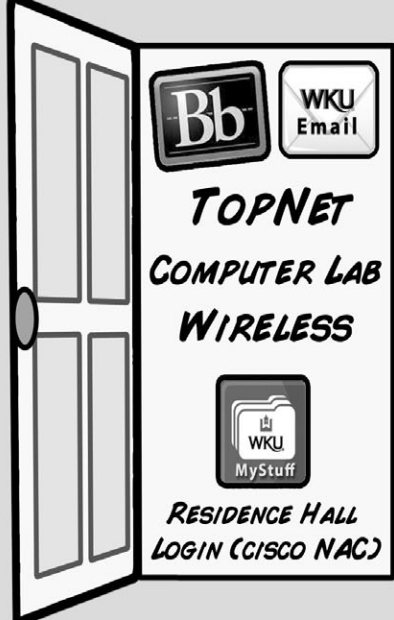
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MARCH 8







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STAFF EDITORIAL

Give us a break

Dorms should remain open longer before spring break

THE ISSUE: Western's dorms officially close at 6 p.m. Friday before spring break.

OUR VIEW: Dorms should stay open through Friday night and close on Saturday morning instead. Students who don't have the time to prepare on Friday because of class, work or other activities will benefit from this later closing time.

Once spring break begins, not many people — students, faculty or staff — want to stay on campus. Faculty members let class out early, and students jump into their cars after throwing their suitcases into the back seat.

Students are often in a hurry to get off campus and to their spring break destinations.

However, there's also students who would utilize Friday night to rest up before driving to Florida or any spring break destination.

Leaving after classes Friday when students are more fatigued would create more safety issues for students driving during the evening.

Some students also have responsibilities that make it harder for them to get away.

For example, some students may have to work Friday night. Others may be finishing up group projects. Dorms should stay open one more night to fit these students' needs.

Leaving a dorm room for a week requires a lot of preparation.

Students must defrost their refrigerators, take out the trash and check out with their resident assistants. They also have to pack up whatever they want to bring with them, and some students take home their entire winter wardrobe to bring spring clothes back.

These tasks take time and could be an inconvenience for students who have class



late Friday afternoon or work off campus.

RAs can't start the final inspections of any rooms until all residents are checked out. Even though closing the halls Saturday morning would mean they'd have to spend one more night on campus, the entire hall staff wouldn't be required to stay. And it's worth the extra effort.

Brain Kuster, director of Housing and Residence Life, said that the dates dorms close are chosen a year in advance. He said the halls have

closed on Friday for more than 30 years.

Kuster said there haven't been any complaints about students not having enough time or resources to make it out of the dorms by 6 p.m.

He said if there was a complaint, then HRL would search for an empty space available in Pearce-Ford Tower for the student to use that night.

But searching for an empty room and packing everything for break — along with an extra night in another

hall — seems like too much of a hassle compared to just spending one more night in the same hall.

So give a break to those students who have other responsibilities preventing them from rushing off campus on Friday. Chances are they want to leave just as badly as everyone else. They just want to be prepared and well-rested

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 11-member editorial board.

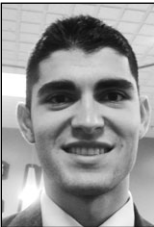
people POLL

What are your plans for spring break?



HUNTER STEVENS
Greensburg sophomore

"Sleep."



BLAINE ROUTT
Elizabethtown junior

"I'm just going home."



JESSICA HOWARD
Henderson sophomore

"I'm going home and am helping out on our farm because Dad had surgery."



CLAY GRAHAM
Elizabethtown freshman

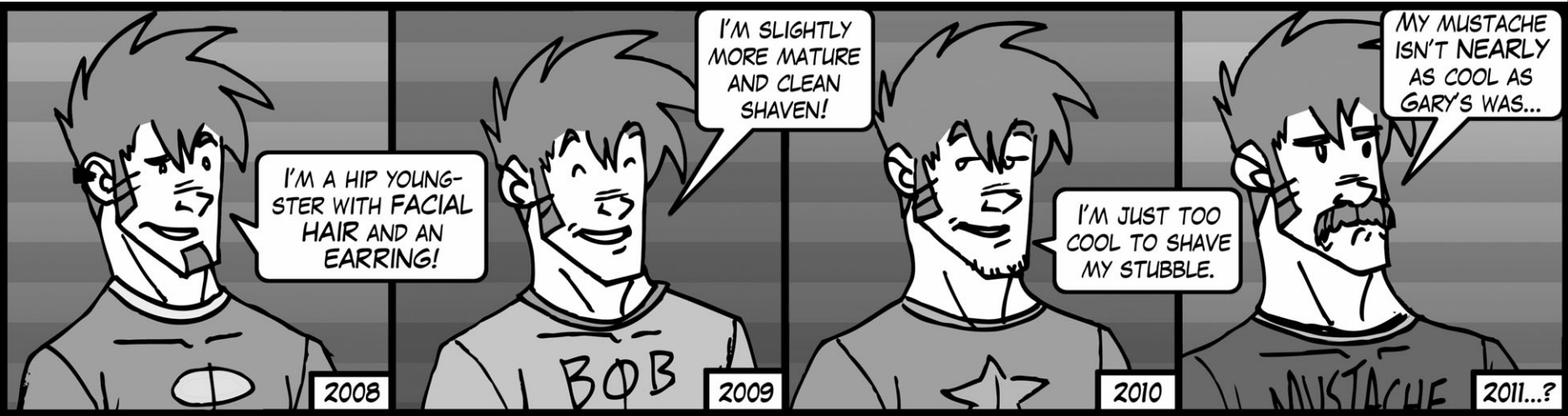
"Oh man, I'm not doing anything. I'll just go home and sleep."

have an opinion?

Share it with us. Write a letter to the editor or a commentary. E-mail them to opinion@chherald.com.

Annie's OUTLOOK

A cartoon strip by Annie Erskine



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SUBMISSIONS
The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:

1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be about 500 words.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.

3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.
6. Letters and commentaries must be received by 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

BENEFITS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“This is something I want to make a non-issue by the time I graduate in May,” he said.

The Benefits Committee’s vote acts as a formal recommendation to the university, Faculty Regent Patricia Minter said.

The University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and Northern Kentucky University have all enacted domestic partner benefits.

Human Resources Director Tony Glisson, a committee member, said he didn’t vote in favor of OQD benefits.

Glisson said his vote was mainly based on data concerning tax implications and changes in the payroll system.

He said he doesn’t think Western is in direct competition with other schools.

Kari Aikins, committee member and manager of employee benefits and retirement, also voted against

OQD benefits.

“One should not simply assume that I am not in favor of basic human rights, ignorant of facts or biased in my opinion,” Aikins said in an e-mail.

Aikins said she talked to the HR benefit administrators at UK, U of L and NKU, and learned that less than 0.2 percent of enrollees in their health plans were attributed to same-sex partners.

Committee member Betsy Shoenfelt, who voted for the OQD benefits, said there was some concern that if other qualified dependents were approved, people would add seriously ill relatives.

She said UK and U of L both have guidelines that qualified dependents cannot be relatives.

“It’s not illegal discrimination because (domestic partners) are not a legal group, but at the same time we are making a distinction, and we are discriminating,” Shoenfelt said. “The fair thing is to offer all employees the same benefits.”

HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Kit Tolbert, director of Housing Operations, said that more than 2,100 students have used the new process so far.

The only glitch that occurred was when multiple students tried to select the same room just fractions of a second apart, which led to three students ending up in the same room, she said.

HRL is looking at ways to improve and add on to the program in the future, Tolbert said.

The next big step is to extend this process to new students, but there is not a definitive date for this, Tolbert said.

Kuster said HRL would eventually like to put a floor plan of the dorms online for students to see as they choose their rooms.

Some students said they en-

joyed having more control over where they live.

Brianne Kelley, a freshman from Canton, Ohio, decided to squat, or stay, in her current room in Pearce-Ford Tower.

Kelley said she wanted to be able to stay on campus over breaks when most other dorms shut down.

The new system is nice because it allows you to make arrangements with friends, Kelley said.

Beaver Dam freshman Thomas Burden also decided to remain in his current dorm, McCormack Hall, because the location is convenient for him.

Burden said he likes the new system because it makes the room selection process more personal.

Although many students are satisfied with the new system, others still see room for improvements in the future.

Ohio County freshman Cody Shown said he would like the time window to be open longer.

Anna Williams, a sophomore from Davenport, Iowa, said that at first she was excited about being able to choose her own room.

Now, Williams said she would rather have been placed by housing.

The new system is too competitive and is causing too much confusion among students, Williams said.

HRL should have allowed more time for students to learn how to use the system, she said.

Kuster said that when the timeframe has ended, students can still make changes by contacting HRL.

A survey will be sent out asking students for feedback and suggestions for improvement, Kuster said.

Bill would expand voting

By LAUREL WILSON
news@chherald.com

Faculty at the instructor level could be able to vote in the next faculty regent election, which will take place in fall 2011.

Kentucky House Bill 374 would allow faculty who are below the rank of assistant professor to vote in faculty regent elections, said Robbin Taylor, vice president for Public Affairs, in an e-mail.

The bill was approved by the House education committee last week and will be up for vote in the full House on Wednesday, Taylor said.

The bill would amend KRS 164, a state law that prohibits anyone who isn’t at the level of assistant professor or above from voting in regent elections, Faculty Regent Patricia Minter said.

“It re-enfranchises the people that lost their right to vote,” she said.

Before the faculty regent election in April 2007, some Western instructors had been voting for many years without knowing they were breaking the law, Minter said.

In April 2007, the faculty regent election was challenged on several points having to do with election procedures, and in the process of investigating those charges, it came to light that KRS 164 was being violated, she said.

After realizing the state law had been broken, a new election took place in October 2007 that complied with KRS 164, which meant that instructors who had voted in the

past were stripped of their right to vote, Minter said.

Western faculty and administrators have been working to change the law since 2008, Taylor said.

About 19 percent of Western’s faculty are at the instructor level, which means they don’t hold a doctorate degree, but in most cases they are full-time, career faculty, she said.

Although the discovery of KRS 164 impacted faculty all over Western, the community college was hit especially hard, because they have a lot of faculty who hold a master’s degree, but not a doctorate, Minter said.

If KRS 164 isn’t amended, many faculty at the community college will not be able to vote when they merge with the University College, she said.

Patricia Randolph, a psychology instructor who’s been at Western for 23 years, said she hopes the bill passes.

“Without it, instructors don’t have official representation,” she said. “The staff regent doesn’t represent us and neither does the faculty regent.”

However, Randolph said that Minter has done such a good job representing all faculty that she doesn’t feel unrepresented.

But she said it’s still unpleasant for instructors to not be able to vote, which is why she’s thrilled about the bill.

“They’ll feel like they have a legitimate voice with the Board of Regents,” Randolph said.



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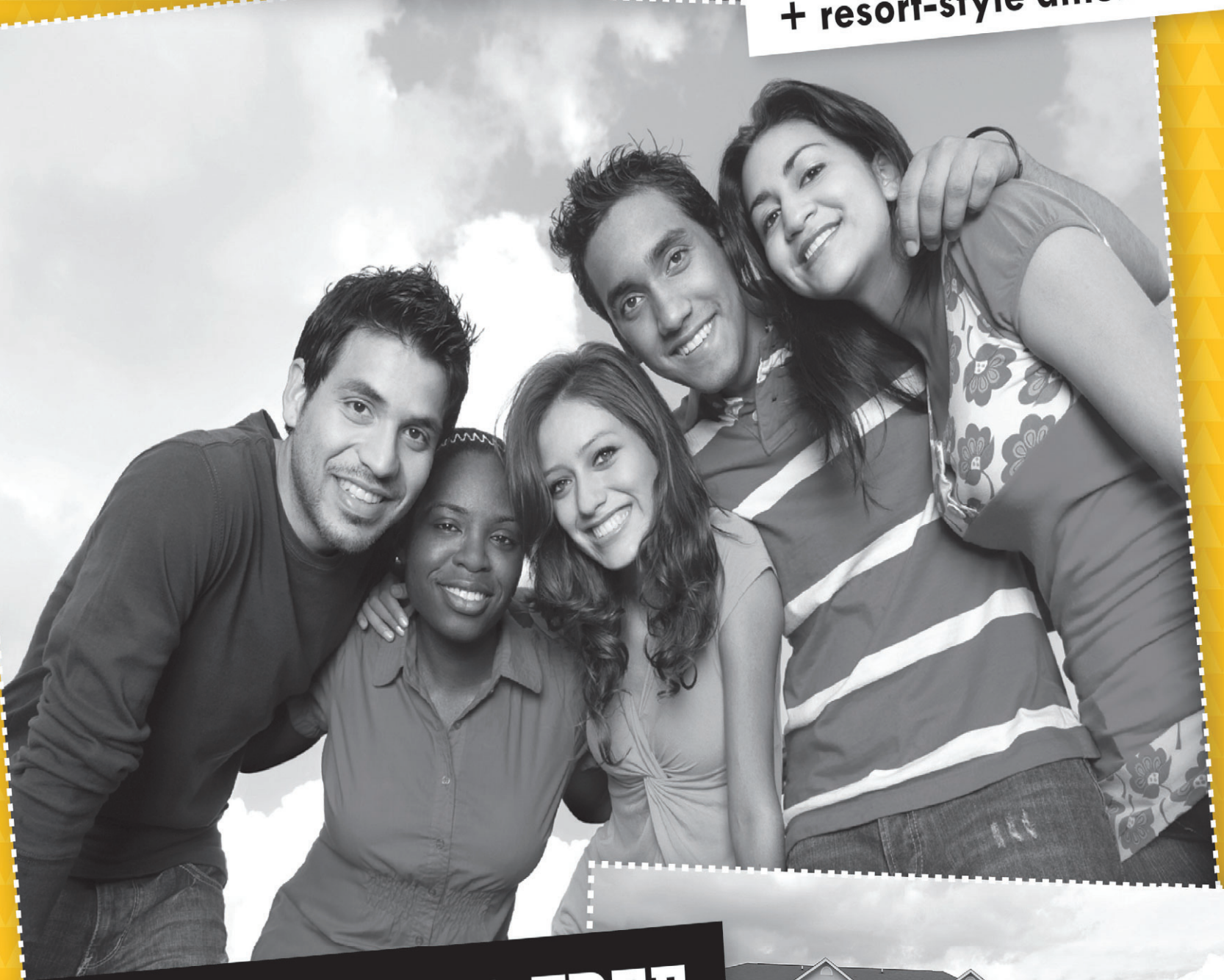
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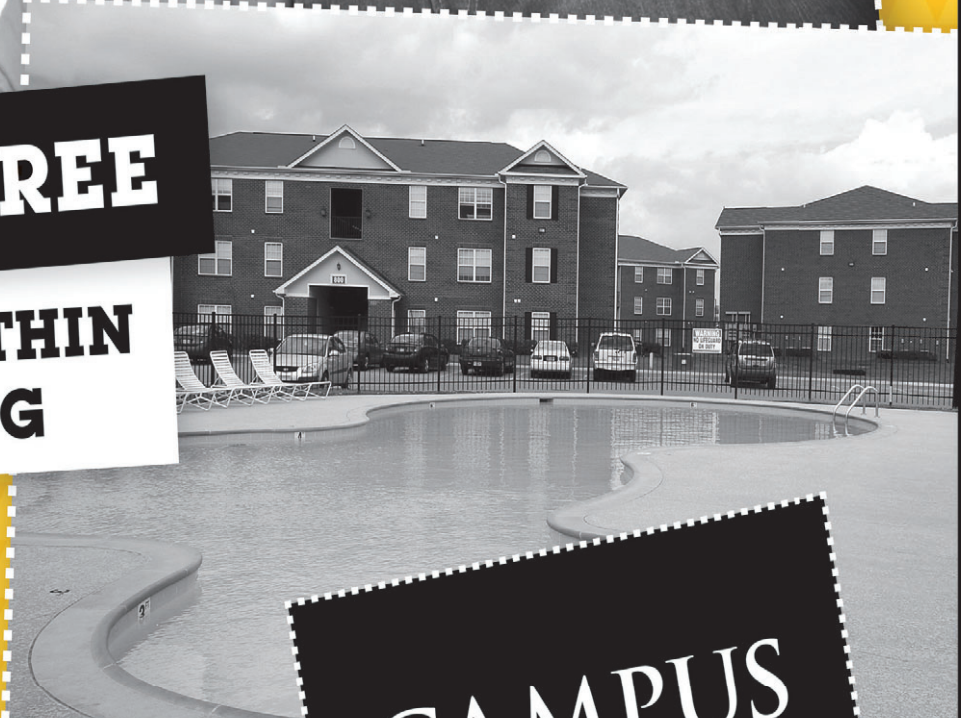
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BASEBALL

Toppers find balance

By MIKE STUNSON
sports@chherald.com

Western showed its offensive power against Kent State and showcased its defense at last weekend's QTI Baylor Classic.

As a result, senior pitcher Shane Cameron said the Toppers can now brag on their balance.

"This is a very balanced team, and on any given day our pitchers or hitters can light it up," Cameron said.

Since allowing 13 runs in their first game of the season, the Toppers (5-1) have given up only nine runs in the five games — which were all wins.

Last weekend, eight pitchers took the mound for Western as it knocked off Texas A&M, Texas State and Baylor to win the QTI Baylor Classic.

"The pitching did good all weekend," junior catcher Matt Rice said. "They kept us in games and got outs when we needed."

Offense was dominant in 2009, but Head Coach Chris Finwood said the Toppers have had to rely more on their pitching to win games this season.

"We have a lot of younger position players and veteran pitchers, so we knew pitching would be a strength this year," Finwood said.

The Toppers lost senior pitcher Matt Hightower after last season, but Finwood brought in freshmen and junior college transfers, as well as sophomore closer Rye Davis back from an injury to bolster the pitching staff.

Rice said this year's pitchers are the best he has seen in his three years at Western.

"They have performed very well so far, but we all knew they would," Rice said. "There is just so much depth in the pitching staff, and they all bring stuff to the table."

Compared to pitching, the Topper offense doesn't have consistency to brag about. Western is averaging 7.2 runs per game ranging from as many as 13 runs in a single game and as few as four.

Finwood said the offense is still a "work in progress."

"We have a very balanced offensive attack, but it is not yet consistent," Finwood said. "We have a long way to go to get better."

Western had a come-from-behind

win on Saturday, and Rice and sophomore center fielder Kes Carter belted the Toppers' first two home runs of the season on Sunday.

Cameron said once the offense gets rolling, Western they will be tough to beat.

"They can all hit, and I have always had confidence in them to do their part," Cameron said.

But Finwood said the offense is doing just enough to win games for them.

"We didn't hit the ball too well over the weekend, but we got many key hits, and our players showed a lot of patience batting," Finwood said.

All four teams Western has faced this year made the NCAA Tournament last season. Finwood said these games will help the Toppers out greatly for when they begin conference play.

"We have played some tough competition, and to be at 5-1 at this point is great," Finwood said. "Sun Belt play will be tough, but we will be prepared."

Western plays five of its next six games at home, starting against Austin Peay at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Denes Field.

HOT

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

Rich scored a then-season-high 16 points at George Washington on Dec. 28 and broke out with an 18-point game at South Alabama on Jan. 6, when she made six of her nine 3-point attempts.

Since that loss to Pittsburgh, Rich has averaged 12.2 points per game, bringing her season average to 9.7. She's also improved her shooting average to 33.5 percent.

"It could get frustrating at times, but the coaching staff and my teammates

are always supporting me," Rich said. "Even if I go 0-for-10 from outside, they're going to continue to tell me to shoot it and keep supporting me."

Head Coach Mary Taylor Cowles said that Rich's consistency and the way she handled adversity makes her a "coach's dream."

"Her mentality and focus never changed, and I think that's a tribute to the kind of young lady she is, and that she's so team-first," Cowles said. "Because of what she's meant to our program over the last four years, I'm really happy for her to be play-

ing as well and be able to provide what she's providing."

Rich's persistence has also begun to rub off on other Lady Toppers.

Freshman guard Lashay Davis said the senior has helped her learn how to rebound from poor performances.

"She's just a great shooter, and she's a great leader," Davis said. "Personally, she boosts my confidence. She's helped me to keep shooting, and she's just a great player all-around."

That's an influence that pleases Cowles, and it's one that she doesn't expect

to end.

Cowles said that Rich will get married in June and will then return to work as a graduate assistant for the Lady Toppers next season.

But for now, Rich wants to keep doing her part to help Western win the Sun Belt tournament this weekend — and that means keep shooting.

"If I didn't shoot well, I don't really pay attention to that," Rich said. "I just try to focus a little bit more on it in the next game, relax and don't rush things, and I try to not think about it too much. As a shooter, you can't hesitate."

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TRACK & FIELD



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Senior Janet Jesang hugs senior Marion Kandie after Jesang finished first and Kandie finished second in the 1-mile run at the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Championships at Middle Tennessee on Sunday.

Better with age

Seniors lead in Sun Belt indoor sweep

By M. BLAKE HARRISON | sports@chherald.com

If there were doubts that the men's and women's track teams were going to come away with anything but first in last weekend's Sun Belt Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship, it was for just a moment.

Both teams pulled away from the field on Sunday after leaving Saturday's opening day with the overall lead, and senior Samantha Smith said she knew all along how the Toppers would fare.

"We always come together — we did come together," Smith said.

For the men, it was their second indoor championship in three years. For the women, it was their fifth straight indoor title.

Including outdoor track and cross country titles, the women have now won 13 consecutive Sun Belt championships.

"For our women to come in and



This was the men's second indoor title in three years. It was the fifth straight indoor title for the women.

perform at the level they did today — I'm extremely proud, and they did same on the men's side," Head Coach Erik Jenkins said.

The women bested second-place Middle Tennessee by 69 points and the men topped North Texas 136-98.

After the meet, Jenkins was named the Sun Belt Women's Coach of the Year by his peers — the ninth of his career.

Western registered a total of 45 top-five finishes throughout the weekend's events, led mostly by the senior class.

The senior men accounted for nearly 57 percent of their team's overall points as senior sprinters Gavin Smellie and Ennis Jones, along with thrower Brian Sovereigns, tallied 52 of the team's 136 points.

SEE **SWEEP**, PAGE 7A

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Toppers four games away from NCAAs

By JONATHAN LINTNER
sports@chherald.com

Short-term goals — such as earning a No. 3 seed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament — didn't work out the way Western wanted last Saturday.

But entering this weekend's tournament, the Toppers (19-12, 12-6 Sun Belt) are in a position to control their own destiny in a win-or-go-home environment.

With the season's long-term goal of an NCAA Tournament berth on the line, junior forward Sergio Kersch said that's the way Western prefers to compete.

"We used to have our backs against the wall when we had that five-game losing streak," Kersch said. "Play every game as if it's your last — that's the mindset the team's picked up."

SEE **DESTINY**, PAGE 7A

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rich finishing hot after cold season start

By ZACH GREENWELL
sports@chherald.com

Dec. 22 wasn't the best day for senior guard Kenzie Rich.

The Lady Toppers (20-9, 14-4 Sun Belt Conference) had just fallen to 5-6 with a 76-60 home loss to Pittsburgh.

Rich was averaging a career-low 5.7 points and shooting 25.3 percent from the field, and she had been held out of the starting lineup for the third straight game.

"I don't know what it was that was making me play the way that I was playing," Rich said. "It was a good idea to not start me. I was able to sit and watch the game for a few minutes, relax and calm down, then go in and play. I think it benefited the team and myself in the end."

Turns out things did get better in the end.



RICH

SEE **HOT**, PAGE 9A

SOFTBALL

Lady Toppers searching for identity



LANCE BOOTH/HERALD

The Lady Toppers root for their team during the second game of a doubleheader against Florida International on Saturday. The Lady Toppers lost both games to FIU with a final score of 7-1 in game one and 8-2 in game two.

By EMILY PATTON
sports@chherald.com

Senior co-captain Shannon Smith said the Lady Toppers haven't looked like themselves lately.

Not like the same team that came home after winning three games in San Diego. Nor did they look like the team that swept Florida International to start last season's Sun Belt Conference schedule.

The Lady Toppers (4-6, 0-3 Sun Belt) dropped three games during a home series with FIU last weekend.

"We definitely didn't play WKU softball," Smith said. "We didn't come out to compete. We just didn't come out to play. We completely beat ourselves."

Lack of an identity was most evident to Smith in Western's 8-2 loss to the Golden Panthers in game two of the series.

The Lady Tops were down 2-1 until freshman Ciara Garcia hit a double to

send junior Elizabeth Ferrell from second to home, tying the game.

With both teams unable to score, the game entered the eighth inning tied at 2-2.

In the extra inning, FIU scored six runs off four hits and one Western error.

"We had plenty of opportunities throughout the game to score multiple runs, and we wouldn't have even had to go into that extra inning," Smith said. "If we would've just played our game, it should've never gotten to that in the first place."

When the Lady Tops managed only one hit to FIU's 13 in the final game of the series, senior Lindsay Antone said she saw an obvious difference in the team.

Both Antone and Head Coach Tyra Perry described real Western softball as playing aggressively.

SEE **IDENTITY**, PAGE 7A



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LANCE BOOTH/HERALD

Bowling Green senior Tai Gibson gets her hair done by Nashville sophomore Jay Norton during the Gamma Sigma Sigma "Creative Touch" hair show on Feb. 24. The money raised from audience attendance went to the American Red Cross for Haiti relief.

Raising hair

Hair show puts unique twist on campus event

By ZIRCONIA ALLEYNE
diversions@cherald.com

An array of colored balloons and smooth R&B tunes filled Garrett Ballroom Wednesday night as the Gamma Sigma Sigma's hosted their first hair show.

Members of the community service sorority showed enthusiasm by sporting black T-shirts with the phrases "Creative Touch" and "All hair is good hair."

As the lights dimmed, the music was cranked up and models began to walk down the illuminated runway. Some models

flaunted weaves. Others wore airbrushed fades, and one model wore a style called "Sasha Fierce," which was caramel colored on the top and brown below.

The crowd examined the creations that the stylists flaunted. The crowd applauded in approval as one stylist, junior Sierra Hopson, of Hopkinsville, wore an embellished box with a glowing smiley face on the front.

"She did a really good job," said junior Eudora Mason, of Clinton. "I liked the girl with the bun at the top and the girl who had the braids with the different colors."

Other spectators were more impressed with the less dramatic styles.

"I liked the natural style done by Jasmine Norton," said sophomore Brittany McCarthy, of Atlanta.

The show concluded with a final walk of the three stylists and their models.

A hair show at Western was a twist to the usual parties and forums hosted by other organizations.

"It was interesting to come see it," Mason said.

SEE HAIR, PAGE 2B

Bowling Green hoping to be honored



TANNER CURTIS/HERALD

From left: Freshmen Jack Arbaugh and Owen Adwell, both of Louisville, Liz Starke, of Evansville, Ind., and Blake Garrison, of Bowling Green, pick up the balls after a round of Bocce outside of Grise Hall on March 1. In Bocce players throw a smaller ball called a pallino and try to throw the bigger balls as close to the pallino as possible.

By BILLY HICKS
news@cherald.com

Bowling Green city officials are hoping to be recognized soon for efforts to deal with the city's biggest issues.

Mayor Elaine Walker said she wants the city to become a National Civic League "All-America City."

Each year since 1949, the league has recognized 10 cities across the country as All-America cities. According to the league's Web site, the award recognizes cities that address problems and make plans for the future.

The application deadline is March 15 and winners will be announced in mid-June, according to the league's Web site.

There have been five cities in Kentucky named All-American since the award's creation, according to the Web site. Those cities are Danville, Hopkinsville, Louisville, Owensboro and Pikeville.

But Walker said she hopes to change that.

"There's no reason Bowling Green shouldn't be an All-America City," she said. Walker said the city's top goal for the future is ensuring that young people stay in Bowling Green by giving them job opportunities and developing the economy. The tax increment financing (TIF) district is one way the city has attempted to help grow its economy.

SEE AMERICAN, PAGE 2B

HAIR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Mason and other students said they will be on the look-out for another hair show from the sorority next year.

"I've seen stuff like this before in Atlanta, but I think it was a change to Western," McCarthy said. "I like to see the artists improve."

Co-Chair Shikara Hernandez-Stevenson said she did expect a lot more people to be there, but because of the weather, there weren't as many people as expected.

"As far as the overall show goes, I believe it went well," she said. "Although we had some technical difficulties, we learn from those mistakes and know that we would need to try and not repeat those mistakes."

She went on to discuss the possibility of the group hosting another hair show next year.

"We do plan on continuing with the hair show, because we still feel that it is a great idea," she said. "Next time, we might try to get local hairstylists from beauty salons and barber shops here in Bowling Green. We know it will be even better in the future."

AMERICAN

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Businesses in the TIF district get tax incentives for opening in the district and hiring new employees.

Walker said Western plays a big part in the city plans as well.

"Clearly education is extremely important and Western and our community college system is key to our success," she said.

Walker said Western meets with businesses and explains the benefits of opening in a college town. In addition, they work with local companies and lobby for new companies to provide jobs to graduating students in their fields.

"Having a major university in the area has been beneficial to bringing new businesses into the area because they tend to need a well-trained workforce, and with Western's presence they have that opportunity," Walker said.

Jessica Thompson, communications director for the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, said Western's presence is important to the city's application for the All-America award.

She said having a university in the city helps with making the city diverse and keeping young people in the city.

"Western's presence is definitely a strong and positive one," Thompson said.

She said winning the All-America award could help promote Bowling Green nationally.

Annual Monologues empower women

By HANNA DEMIRJIAN
diversions@chherald.com

Many snicker at its name or widen their eyes in shock after hearing it. But participants of the Vagina Monologues perform to prove the word vagina is not forbidden but instead embraced.

"It represents a stigma around the world and being a woman who is expressive about herself," said Louisville freshman Tracy Ingram who is performing a monologue of an old Jewish woman and her sexual liberties.

The show will be in the Garrett Ballroom at 7:30 p.m. tonight. A silent auction will begin at 6 p.m.

The Vagina Monologues were started by Eve Ensler on Valentine's Day 1998, according to the organization's Web site, www.vday.org.

All of the proceeds from the event go to Hope Harbor Inc., a sanctuary for victims of sexual abuse. In other states and countries, the money also benefits local trauma recovery centers.

Elizabeth Mohon, a member of the Hope Harbor board of directors, said she wants people to come to her and feel comfortable enough to talk about sexual assault and rape.

"I do what I do because I believe that

we can end sexual violence, and it's important to give a voice to those who feel they don't have a voice themselves," Mohon said.

Mohon is also the sexual assault service coordinator and staff counselor with Western's Counseling and Testing Center. She said she highly encourages the Vagina Monologues.

In addition to the monologues, there are Vagina Facts.

"There are questions like, 'What would your vagina wear?' and 'What would your vagina say?'" Ingram said.

These facts and questions make people understand that women should feel comfortable about their bodies, Ingram said.

"A theme of this is that the vagina is a tool in female empowerment," Mohon said.

Ingram said the Vagina Monologues usually attract large audiences. All the stories told are true and acquired by Ensler herself.

Bowling Green senior Melinda Bleuel, director of the Vagina Monologues, said this year's event will be different than past years.


"There are a few new people, different lighting, blocking and interaction of the cast," she said. "Last year it was aggressive; this year it is more seductive."

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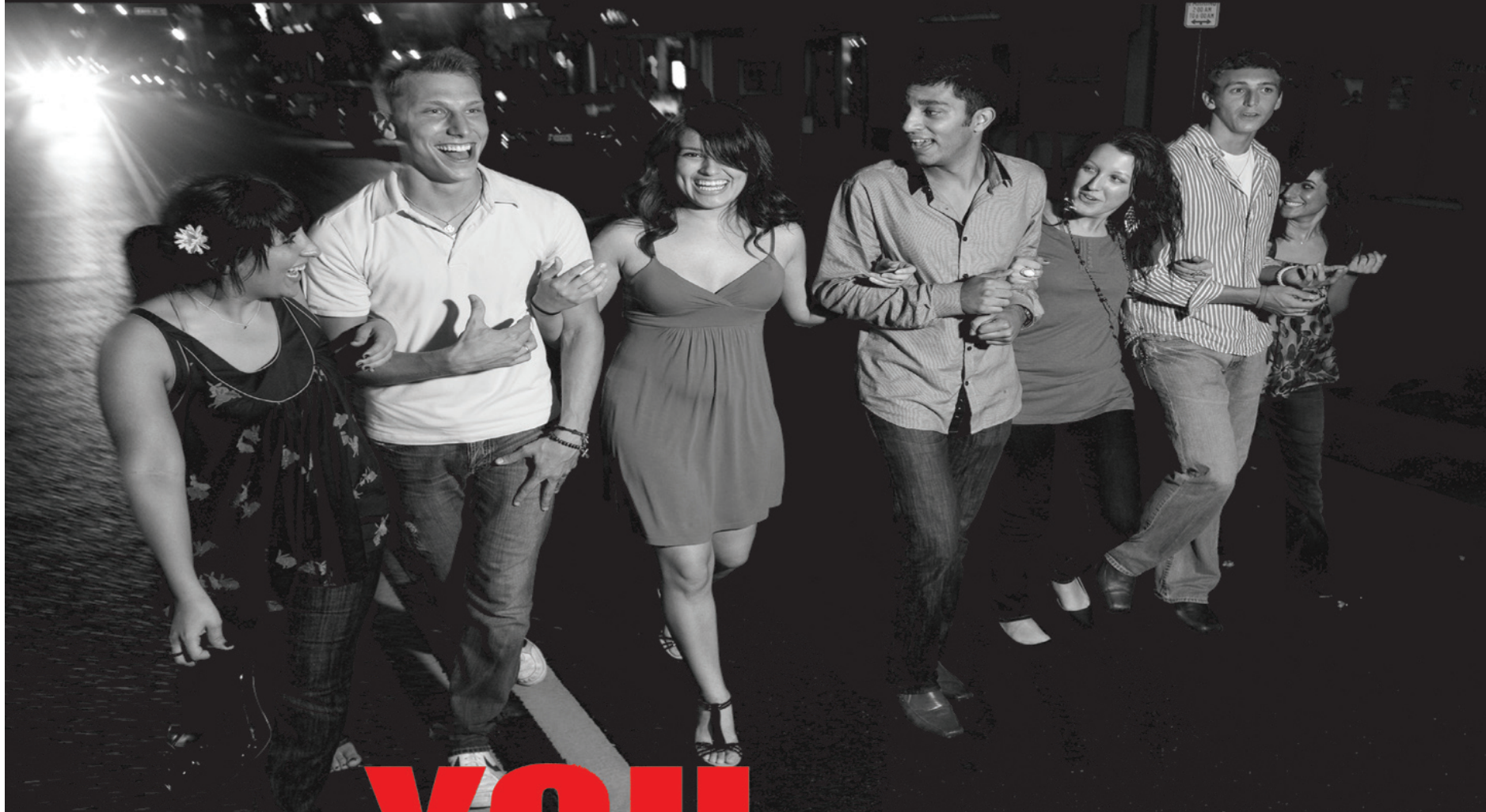
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Clay Goodman, an Elizabethtown junior in Sigma Chi, left, fights Joe Montano, a Kappa Alpha sophomore, in the lightweight division championship on Feb. 26 at Jaycees Pavilion. Montano won the lightweight championship. DAVE KASNIC/HERALD



TANNER CURTIS/HERALD



AUSTIN KOESTER/HERALD

(Above) Pi Kappa Alpha junior Evan Goddard of Frankfort catches his breath after a workout exercise at House of Fitness on Feb. 19 as part of his training for Sigma Chi's Battle of the Greeks. Goddard won the middle-weight championship for the second year in a row.

(Left) Kris Horn, a Sigma Nu junior from Bowling Green, prepares for his fight Thursday night against Kappa Alpha junior Zack Clark at Jaycees Pavilion.

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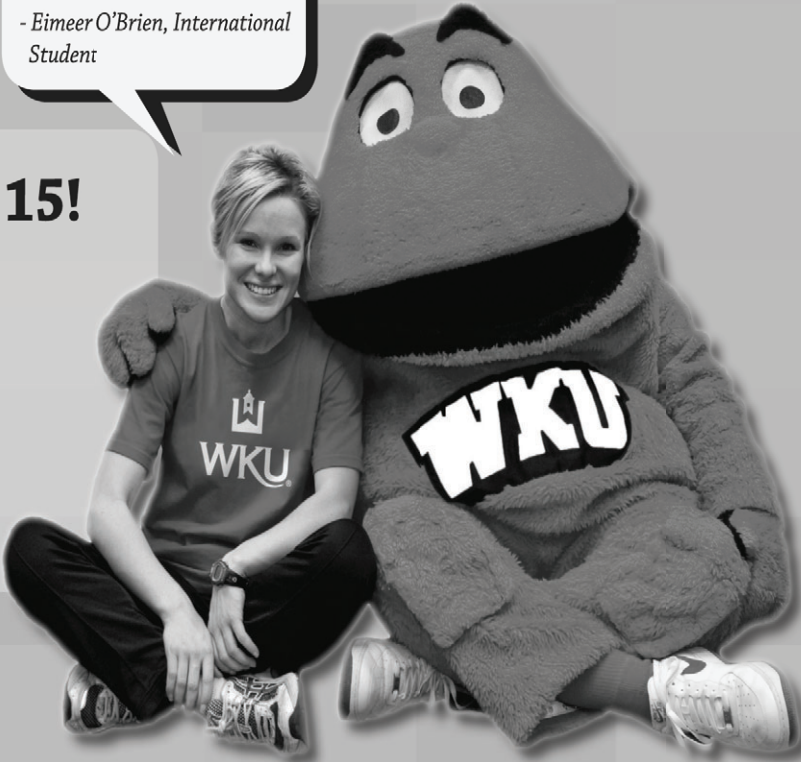
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